

Provo: Glimpses From History

(continued from Page 4C)

Provo's population was 3432; Ogden, 6069.

First Bank

1882 — Provo's first bank, the "First National," was established, with A.O. Smoot as president. The First Congregational Church of Provo was organized. The Edmunds Law was passed, resulting in "polygamy hunts" by federal officers.

1883 — Construction started on the present Provo Tabernacle. The building was put in use late in 1885 in incomplete stage, and was finally completed and dedicated in 1898.

1884 — Fire destroyed the Lewis Building at Third West and Center, first home of Brigham Young Academy.

1885 — Provo Foundry & Machine Co. was established. The Provo Opera House (later the Provo Armory located at about 40 N. 100 W.) was completed.

1887 — Provo Chamber of Commerce was organized Sept. 10. The telephone made its appearance in Provo. The Edmunds-Tucker Act was passed, harshly implementing earlier laws and authorizing confiscation of church property and requiring a monogamy oath for voters, nominees for office, and jurors.

1889 — The city council okayed a franchise for a street railway on Center Street and University Avenue, which began operations more than a year later. Its career was short - lived for lack of patronage. The Odd Fellows Lodge was organized here.

Fire Department

1890 — Provo City established its first fire department with horse-drawn fire engine. President Wilford Woodruff issued the "Manifesto" disapproving further practice of polygamy as church doctrine. Provo's population was 5159.

Provo City received its first electric service in 1890 through a company headed by A.O. Smoot and others. The system was transferred in 1899 to the Electric Company which continued to supply the city with power as the retail agent of the Telluride Power Company. The company was consolidated with Utah Power & Light Co. in 1912.

1891 — Provo City awarded a contract for its first waterworks system.

1892 — The Education Building, first B.Y. Academy building on the new "lower campus," was dedicated Jan. 4. The cornerstone was laid for the First Baptist Church building Aug. 24. The St. Mary's Episcopal Church was founded here. The Catholic Church was organized here and erection of a church building at Fifth West and Second North began in 1923.

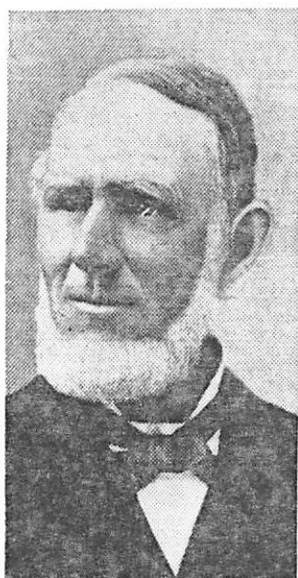
1897 — The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad extended its branch line up Provo Canyon, connecting with the mines at Park City, having been granted a franchise to build tracks on Provo's Second West.

Christian Science

1901 — The Christian Science Church founded a Provo organization.

1903 — Provo Lodge 849, B.P.O. Elks, was organized July 2. Brigham Young Academy became Brigham Young University. The Provo General Hospital opened its doors at the corner of First East and Second South Oct. 1.

1904 — The Provo Building & Loan Society was organized



ABRAHAM O. SMOOT, pioneer era Provo mayor, businessman, and civic-church-education leader.



JESSE KNIGHT, early-day Provo mining man, industrialist, and philanthropist.

Second West and Center. A high school was established here under the superintendency of L. E. Eggertson in the Central Building. A new Provo High building was erected in 1919.

1911 — The BYU Maeser Memorial building was erected at a cost of \$110,000, the first building on the upper campus.

1912 — By Utah Legislature enactment, the city commission system of government was prescribed for cities of second class, which included Provo. The Utah Railway (coal route) was incorporated Jan. 24, operating from Provo to Emery County with joint trackage with the Rio Grande from Thistle to Castle Gate.

Woolen Mills

1913 — Jesse Knight, noted mining executive, purchased the Provo Woolen Mills.

1914 — The electric interurban line, the Salt Lake & Utah Railroad, was established between Salt Lake and Utah Valley points.

1915 — Street paving began here.

1917 — The Community Congregational Church was established here, an amalgamation of the Methodist, Baptist, and Congregational churches.

1918 — The disastrous Knight Woolen Mills fire caused monetary loss estimated up to a half million dollars. While the mills, Provo's biggest industry, were revived and operated until 1932, they were doomed by the fire.

1920 — The cornerstone was laid Dec. 14 for the present County Building, completed in

Memorial Building was dedicated at North (Sowiette) Park.

1938 - 39 — Utah Valley Hospital was erected through a Commonwealth Fund grant. It has been expanded several times and is now operated by the LDS Church.

Power Plant

1940 — The Provo Municipal Power Plant went into operation, having been erected by the administration of Mayor Mark Anderson. It has been enlarged since.

1942 — The Herald announced Feb. 8, 1942 the government's selection of the Vineyard - Geneva area as site for \$126,000,000 steel plant. (original plans were expanded and the ultimate cost approached \$200,000,000.)

1946 — Federal approval of purchase of Geneva Works by U.S. Steel Corp. for peacetime operation was announced June 18.

1947 — Central Utah communities participated in the state-wide commemoration of Utah's centennial, and Provo celebrated its own centennial in 1949, establishing a rose garden at North Park as a "living memorial." A campaign was launched for construction of a new swimming pool in Provo.

1954 — Ground - breaking ceremonies were held June 26 for a swimming pool at North Park, with extensive financial participation by the veterans organizations.

1955 — Provo citizens voted by a narrow margin to adopt its own charter, which resulted in a switch from the city commission to council - manager form of local government.

High School

1956 — The new Provo High School at 10th North and University Avenue was occupied.

1960 — Provo's census was at 36,047. BYU's greatest era of growth continued into a new decade.

1961 — Provo voted to switch from the council - manager system back to the city commission plan.

Other highlights in the 1960s included establishment of neighborhood beautification committees, construction of a new women's cultural center, selection of Mrs. Harvey Fletcher of Provo as the American Mother of the Year, formation of Utah Valley Industrial Development Association; more growth at BYU, purchase of an Orem tract for a new campus for Utah Technical College, and voter approval of the Central Utah Project repayment contract.

1970 — Provo's census, 53,491.

1972 — Dedications were held for the Provo Temple (Feb. 9) and the new City Center (May 22). Josephine C. Oaks was named American Young Mother of the Year. Environmental impact hearings were held on the Central Utah Project. The voters turned down by a 4 to 1 vote a Utah County plan to build a large addition to the county building that included new jail facilities on the third floor.

today's **FUNNY**

WHEN A GIRL IS OLD ENOUGH TO WEAR HIGH HEELS SHE GOES ARROUND

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1904 — The Provo Building & Loan Society was organized through the initiative of Thomas N. Taylor and others.

1907 — The Public Library erected its building at First East and Center through an Andrew Carnegie grant of \$17,500. The library was remodeled and enlarged in 1939 at a cost of \$50,340. A post office was erected at the corner of University Avenue and Center and served the postal customers until 1939 when purchased by Utah County and Provo City for use as the city hall. It was razed in 1972.

1910 — On Sept. 1, J.C. Penney established its Store No. 15 at

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1923 — Columbia Steel Company established a plant at Ironton.

1937 — The cornerstone was laid Aug. 21 for the new Post Office and Provo Federal Building at First North and First West.

1938 — Word was received of federal approval of the Provo River (Deer Creek) Project, including dam, reservoir, Weber-Provo River Canal, Duchesne Tunnel, and Salt Lake Aqueduct. The dam was finished in November 1941. The Pioneer

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